

REMARKS

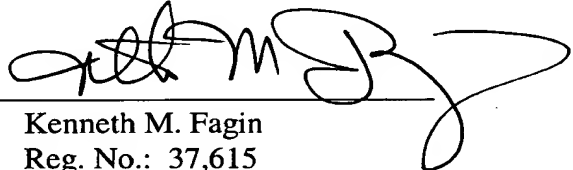
Claims 1-3 and 11-15 are pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 13 are amended, and claim 12 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this Application in view of the following remarks.

By this Amendment, Applicants have fully incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 12 into independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 and all the rest of the claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1, are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: 

Kenneth M. Fagin

Reg. No.: 37,615

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2066

Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

KMF/ASW
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000